

**Claims**

1. A method for conducting electronic commerce, comprising the steps of:  
identifying items on a web site;  
registering on the web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;  
5 placing order selections of the items from a non-authorized individual associated  
with the customer in a sub tier electronic order;  
holding the sub tier electronic order for approval by the authorized individual;  
and  
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in  
10 response to approval by the authorized individual.
2. A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of registering on the  
web site the non-authorized individual associated with the customer.
- 15 3. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a  
sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved  
shopping cart.
4. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for  
20 purchase comprises identifying parts available for purchase.
5. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for  
purchase comprises identifying service contracts available for purchase.
- 25 6. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items available for  
purchase comprises identifying equipment upgrades available for purchase.
7. A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of processing the  
approved electronic order.
- 30 8. A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of identifying items comprises  
identifying items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility and wherein said non-

authorized individual comprises an engineer involved in the operation of said wafer fabrication facility.

- 5 9. A method for conducting electronic commerce, comprising the steps of:  
identifying items available for purchase on a web site;  
registering on the web site a buyer associated with a customer;  
registering on the web site a non-buyer associated with the customer;  
placing order selections of the items by the non-buyer in a sub tier electronic  
order;  
10 permitting the sub tier electronic order to be held for approval by the buyer;  
permitting the buyer to generate an approved electronic order based on the sub  
tier electronic order;  
receiving the approved electronic order from the buyer; and  
supplying items to the customer in accordance with the approved electronic order  
15 received from the buyer.
- 20 10. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a  
sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved  
shopping cart.
- 25 11. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein the step of identifying items comprises  
identifying items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.
- 30 12. A method for electronic ordering in a business entity, comprising the steps of:  
authorizing a first individual associated with the business entity to place an order;  
authorizing a second individual associated with the business entity to place order  
selections in a sub tier electronic order; and  
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in  
response to approval by the first individual.
13. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the step of authorizing a first individual  
comprises the step of registering the first individual on a web site of a supplier.

14. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

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15. A method for processing an order on a web site, comprising the steps of:  
placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with a customer in a sub tier electronic order; and  
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in  
10 response to approval received from an authorized individual associated with the customer.

16. A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the step of registering on the web site the authorized individual associated with the customer.

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17. A method as defined in claim 15 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

20 18. A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.

19. A method for processing an order on a web site, comprising the steps of:  
registering on the web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;  
25 placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with the customer in a sub tier electronic order; and  
converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in response to approval received from the authorized individual.

30 20. A method as defined in claim 19 wherein the sub tier electronic order comprises a sub tier shopping cart and wherein the approved electronic order comprises an approved shopping cart.

21. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of processing the approved electronic order.

5 22. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items available for purchase.

23. A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising the step of identifying on the web site items suitable for use in a wafer fabrication facility.

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24. Apparatus for conducting electronic commerce comprising:  
means for registering on a web site an authorized individual associated with a customer;  
means for placing order selections by a non-authorized individual associated with  
15 the customer in a sub tier electronic order; and  
means for converting the sub tier electronic order to an approved electronic order in response to approval received from the authorized individual.

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